

tions of instances wherein certain other kinds have passed the winter far to the north of their usual habitats are simply irrelevant, and his references to what may be possible are entirely outside the range of evidence.

But when Mr. Chadbourne comes to speak of Yellow-rumps, he is, to say the least, forgetful of the laws which regulate the geographical distribution of birds. He believes it "almost equally certain that the Yellow-rumped Warblers were wintering at Pine Point, Maine," because "they do regularly at Milton, Mass., only about ninety miles south," and because they winter also at other points in Massachusetts. He gives no other reasons. It is hardly necessary to discuss the cogency of those which he does produce: they are not in the nature of evidence.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

On the Former Breeding of *Psaltriparus minimus* in South Carolina.—In a letter received sometime since from Dr. C. Kollock, mention was made of the former breeding of the Least Bush-tit in the vicinity of Cheraw, South Carolina. Subsequently I wrote to him asking for further particulars concerning this interesting occurrence. His reply is as follows:—"As to the Chestnut-crowned Titmouse—*Parus minimus* of Townsend and Audubon—I never wrote anything on the subject except a short letter to the Rev. Dr. M. A. Curtis, who was then pastor of the Episcopal Church at Society Hill, about fifteen miles below Cheraw. When I first wrote him that I had found specimens of the Chestnut-crowned Titmouse near Cheraw, he wrote me promptly, saying that I must be mistaken, as that bird was never seen east of the Rocky Mountains. I had captured both the male and female, and the nest with six eggs in it. A few days later Dr. Curtis came to Cheraw, and when he saw the birds, nest, and eggs, he gave it up and said, 'You have discovered the first Chestnut-crowned Titmouse ever seen this side of the Rocky Mountains.' I saw perhaps six or eight others in the same locality. I have never seen any since that date, [the spring of] 1857, so it must have been an accident their appearing in this latitude."

This account adds still another instance of that peculiar easterly migration of 'western' species toward the South Atlantic seaboard, which has so recently been revealed in the records of Le Conte's Bunting, Painted Longspur, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Finch, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

It is to be hoped that the constantly increasing band of ornithological workers, scattered over the State, will be able to throw the clearer light of later experience on this and other legacies of the Bachmanian epoch of South Carolinian ornithology.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have received a more detailed account from Dr. Kollock respecting the occurrence noted above, from which I add the following:

"... The nest was suspended from low bushes, from three and a half to five feet from the ground; was in the shape of a long purse, from four to six inches in length, with a round hole at the top. The lower part or bottom of the nest was wider than the upper part. The nest was made

principally of moss, lint, and down, and lined with feathers. There were several eggs—I do not now remember how many—four or five, I think, and were pure white. The nest was in a low place, not exactly a swamp or marsh, but a low bottom, grown up thickly with bushes of sweet-gum, hackberry, a bush known here as the spice tree. It was most beautifully and securely attached to the twigs.

“In 1857, Dr. Curtis was in the zenith of his reputation as a botanist and ornithologist. He died soon after the war. This is all I have to say on the subject of the *Parus minimus* being found in South Carolina. I had the male and female and a nest of eggs, all of which was burned in my office by Sherman's army in 1865. The birds and nest I procured in the very early part of May or latter part of April. . . . I was not mistaken in my identification. I saw the birds before they were captured, knew they were rare in this region, having given some attention to the ornithology of this State. Having procured the specimens, I referred the matter to Dr. Curtis, who, when he saw them, admitted at once they were the *Parus minimus*, and said, ‘You are the first to find this bird east of the Rocky Mountains.’ Dr. Curtis doubted my correctness of identification till he saw the specimens.”—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS. *Chester, S. C.*

Helminthophila celata in South Carolina.—This plain-colored little bird, discovered and described by Say in 1823, was for a long time supposed to inhabit only the West, from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean, as in 1858 Professor Baird gives its habitat as such. But in later years the bird has been taken all along the Atlantic coast. Audubon is one of the early writers who defines its habitat correctly. I first became acquainted with this interesting little Warbler in the fall of 1884. I secured the first specimen I had seen living on the 29th November, 1884. I was attracted to it by its peculiar little chirp. It kept in the thickest of the bushes, and was not still for a second, so I had considerable difficulty in procuring it. The bird was shot on Sullivan's Island. This island, about six miles long, and seven miles from Charleston, is a famous summer resort for the residents of Charleston. It is directly on the Atlantic Ocean, and is my favorite collecting ground for this Warbler, as well as the numberless Waders that migrate along the coast in April and May. This Warbler is a late autumnal migrant, arriving late in November, and wintering in small numbers, especially on Sullivan's Island, as nearly all my specimens were taken on that island. They were all shot from myrtle bushes, and invariably fell when shot into the water. I therefore consider this species strictly maritime when in South Carolina. The bird reminds me of the Worm-eating Warbler, it being exceedingly active, and always keeping in the thickest bushes, searching for worms and larvæ amongst the dead leaves. I have failed to find the species five miles from Charleston, away from the coast, but have taken it nine miles from Charleston on the coast. I have taken specimens in November, December, January, February, and March. The bird appears to migrate early in the spring. They love to gambol in company with the Yellow-rumped Warblers, and